

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Happy New Year to all our listeners.

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors, you can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message with the office, on 02 9651 1490. We are planning to re-introduce some on-site activities soon, public health directions permitting.

We wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are currently available if you have health concerns – the National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; if you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both services are available 24 hours a day; and are a free call from most telephone services.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding events and activities over the holiday period. You can email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts; and, as always, we welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities.

Tonight, we again welcome listeners on the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken after tonight's bulletin; our thanks to John VK3HJQ, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available.

VK2WI News bulletins are also relayed through regional repeaters; by the Hunter Radio Group with VK2RNC on 146.975; the Central Coast ARC with VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725; To the west of Sydney, the St. George ARS with VK2RDX on 146.650 and to the south, the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's VK2RMP on 53.650 and 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. We thank these clubs for their continued support of our news service.

Over the last 12 months, VK2WI News received an average of 250 callbacks each week, with a cumulative total of over 12,500 for the year. If your club is interested in joining the VK2WI News network, we can provide linking via HF, VHF, and various internet methods; please email news@arnsw.org.au for more information.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24th to the 30th of December;

This report issued on the 31st of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
10cm Flux	126	131	125	124	121	111	102
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	5	2	8	6	5	7 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	5	1	12	4	7	11 estimated
T index	71	75	72	80	48	63	58

Solar activity was low from the 24th to the 27th, then moderate on the 28th with two M-class flares; an M1.8 at 0402UTC, and an M1.5 at 1612UTC. Activity was at low levels on the 29th and very low on the 30th.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 24th to the 26th, with some unsettled periods on the 25th. The 27th reached minor storm levels, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 13 nanoTesla, at 0937UTC. The 28th was mostly quiet, before some unsettled conditions on the 29th, and quiet to active conditions on the 30th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values with some enhanced periods earlier in the week; with 15% enhancement on the 24th, 15% during the day and 20% during the night of the 25th, 20% during the night on the 26th, 25% during local night on the 27th, and 15% during local night on the 28th.

Now, the forecast for the 31st of December to the 6th of January;

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels, with a slight chance of an isolated low level M class flare on the 1st of January. Solar flux activity may trend lower through the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active periods possible. Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values, but may trend lower as the week progresses.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 30th of September;

Having finished December, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 103 and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 17th to the 30th.

As we start January 2022, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 90, Average of 113 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 17th to the 29th.

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 108 and a Maximum of 128
With peak dates from the 7th to the 15th.

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with this series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

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Duration 2m27s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

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ARRL DX news

SENEGAL; Jacques, F6HMJ will be active as 6W7/F6HMJ until February 22. Activity will be mostly CW with some SSB on 40 to 10 metres.

GREENLAND; Nils, SM3UQK is active as OX/SE3A until January 4.

TANZANIA; Mike, 5H3EE is active from Dar es Salaam. His length of stay is unknown. He was recently heard on 12 metre FT8 at various times.

COLOMBIA; Special event call sign 5K6RM will be used by members of the HK6RM club until January 10. Activity will be on 80 through 2 metres using SSB, CW, FT8, FT4 and Satellites.

ANTARCTICA; Oleg, UA1PBA is currently active as ZS7ANF. Also, Karsten, DM2KX was scheduled to arrive at the Neumayer III base December 27. He will use the base club call sign DP0GVN and plans to put up a satellite antenna to work QO-100.

GEORGIA; Ilya, 4L9M plans an operation over the next two months, including the CQ Worldwide 160 metre CW and SSB contests.

ALASKA; Fred, KB4DMQ is active as KL7FBI from Shemya Island, until January 24. Look for him on 40 metre FT8.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Eugene, RA0FF will use special call R075F until February 28, in honour of the 75 years of the Sakhalin Region.

SURINAME; Fox, PD0FPX is operating in his free time as PZ5JT mostly on 20 metres, but also on 17, 15 and 10 metres.

ST. MARTIN; David, F8AAN will be active as FS/F8AAN until January 20. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW only.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active for the ARRL DX CW Contest, February 19 and 20. He will be operating as P44W in the SOAB category.

DOMINICA; Walter, J79WTA will be active for the next four to six months. He operates in his spare time, mostly evenings, using SSB, and digital modes.

BRAZIL; Special event operation PX522BR marks 522 years since the discovery of Brazil by European explorers. Pedro Alvares Cabral arrived there on April 22, 1500. Also, special call sign PX2022BR is active, commemorating 200 years of Brazil's independence.

MALDIVES; Tom, OE1TRI will be active as 8Q7TR, operating holiday style until January 3 on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

ST. VINCENT; Brian, GW4DVB will be active from February 24 to March 8, as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, 17, 15, 10 and 6 metres using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8.

ENGLAND; GB100BBC celebrates 100 years of the BBC.

SINT MAARTEN; Tom, AA9A will be active as PJ7AA from February 26 to March 26. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 F/H and FT4.

KENYA; Ferdy, HB9DSP will be active as 5Z4/HB9DSP from January 12 to 27, pending the current COVID situation. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres using mainly SSB with some FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The AGB New Year Snowball Contest, SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, QRP ARCI New Years Sprint, PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, WW PMC Contest, Original QRP Contest, ARRL Kids Day, ARRL RTTY Roundup, EUCW 160-Metre Contest are on over this weekend.

WICEN News

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the WICEN website for details.

The VK2RWS 70cm repeater is now back on the air, operating from Hornsby. It is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcome, and can be emailed to tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. The website is at nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information; its at www.crarc.org.au.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next Monthly General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 8th of January 2022. Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month, but since the first Saturday is New Year's Day, January's meeting has been moved to the second Saturday. The meeting will be at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The club's eagerly awaited 2022 calendar will be available for purchase at the meeting. All activities are held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

The Committee continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run early in the New Year once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. Access to VK2RPM is available via EchoLink for those outside the repeater coverage area. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The November 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is online, featuring a very comprehensive article on network radio by Paul VK2ICQ. Past issues can be viewed on the website as well. The January 2022 issue is currently in preparation and will be published soon. The current issue You can also find the Club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club rooms will re-open next Saturday, January 8, subject to public health orders.

Planning is well underway for next year's field day, Mayham, scheduled for the 1st of May, 2022.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, 70cm EchoLink and IRLP and the BrandMeister DMR repeater are still having problems. All other services are fully operational.

The Club's webSDR is now operating from Somersby; websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

The Club's Morning Tea net continues daily on the VK2RAG 2m repeater, and on EchoLink, with thanks to the ongoing effort and commitment of Bob VK2AOR and Brad VK2NMZ. Dave VK2KFU is taking a break from the hosting team, and we thank him for his solid contribution.

The weekly Thursday night net will resume on January 13th, and the SSTV net on January 21.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and past nets can be replayed as well.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; via phone on 02 43402500 or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to "like" to follow for updates.

The club wishes all a safe and happy break,
73 Alan VK2MG
Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Sydney ATV Group

The Group's ATV repeater at Lawson in the Blue Mountains, transmits high-definition TV on 445.50MHz, with analogue and digital inputs on 23cm.

Reception is possible over the Sydney Metro area, or via the British Amateur TV Club streaming web site; on the site, select the VK2 callsign and if requested, the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching – just enter /nick, a space then your name, your following text will appear in the column above.

Regular nets are on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm. We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. Why not join in and find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of digital amateur radio.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

We are pleased to announce that the Society's Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest will go ahead this year, on Sunday the 6th of March.

Last year it was deemed necessary to cancel the contest, but since it has become such a well-established event on the Amateur calendar, this year organisers were determined to find a way that it can go ahead. Special categories and rules have been introduced to make sure the event is Covid-safe and complies with public health restrictions in force at the time. One of the new contest categories will be a Robinson Crusoe Award, which will allow participants to maintain social distancing by operating in isolation from any part of the harbour. More details will be announced as the contest draws closer but meanwhile make sure you mark that date – Sunday, March 6th for the Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest.

Apart from the Society's regular Monday evening net each week, there is a "project day" get-together on the first Saturday of the month, as well as other regular activities. See the website for details.

The Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday in the RSL bistro, have temporarily been reverted to Zoom only. Join in if you can.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at vk2bv.org. You can purchase kits, pay your membership, which is now due, or use the contact form on the website for more information.

*73 and a Happy New Year from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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Activities on the air

Lightning Net 8pm Mondays on 1860kHz, Net control Steve VK2STG.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on South east network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday, back on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Westlakes 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30am on 3565kHz. 2m nets on 146.775MHz, see website for details.

Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz. Meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9.

Central Coast ARC Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays. Weekly net resumes January 13.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday at 8pm, VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday 3653kHz.

Illawarra ARS Nets Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675; Tuesday 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

Blue Mountains ARC Nets on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Second Sunday of the month from 5pm.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air, see website for details.

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm Monday on 445.5MHz from Lawson.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursdays on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required, also on Echolink.

St George ARS net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, Wednesday from 8pm on 3608.5kHz, Friday 9am on 7106kHz.